(3) THE MADRAS AGRICULTURISTS RELIEF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1958 (L.A. BILL NO. 23 OF 1958).

MR. SPEAKER : As the hon. Member Sri K. Ramachandran is not in his seat, this Bill will also be taken up later.

B. Resolutions.

CONSTITUTION OF A COMMITTEE TO SUGGEST WAYS AND MEANS FOR BRINGING DOWN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS AND ESSENTIAL ARTICLES.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : Mr Speaker, Sir, I move the following Resolution—

" That this House is of opinion that the steps taken by the Government so far to bring down the soaring prices of foodgrains and essential articles are inadequate and recommends that a Committee consisting of members of all political parties and specialists may be constituted for suggesting ways and means of bringing down the prices."

SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Sir, I second it.

MR. SPEAKER : Resolution moved—

" That this House is of opinion that the steps taken by the Government so far to bring down the soaring prices of foodgrains and essential articles are inadequate and recommends that a Committee consisting of members of all political parties and specialists may be constituted for suggesting ways and means of bringing down the prices."

* SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving this resolution, I would like to emphasize only certain important points, as many hon. Members may be eager to speak on this very important resolution which is now before this House. We are on the threshold of an agricultural economic revolution and the transitional period is no doubt painful and uncertain but we must bear all these things with fortitude and take an optimistic view of things.

(Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

First and foremost the problem that is facing us is the mounting price of foodstuffs and other articles of consumption. Their prices are very high. The living index has now come to 430 points. It has reached the maximum. Secondly, in spite of aid agreements that have been entered into with various foreign Governments for the supply of foodgrains, the situation is going from bad to worse. It is indeed alarming. So far as agriculture is concerned, it is practically true to say that it is a gamble depending on seasonal conditions. Therefore we must realise that because it is a gamble, we must take adequate precautions. What are the steps taken by the Government to build up buffer stocks in our State of Tamilnad? We are not having adequate supply of foodgrains. In order to find an excuse for our incapacity to tackle the problem, we charge